

**DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING – December 2, 2010**

**Item #3**

<u>Present:</u>	Allen Park	Mayor Gary Burtka
	Brownstown Twp.	Deputy Supervisor Greg Mahar
	Dearborn	
	Dearborn Heights	
	Ecorse	
	Flat Rock	Mayor Jonathan Dropiewski
	Gibraltar	Mayor James Gorris
	Grosse Ile Twp.	
	Huron Twp.	Supervisor Elke Doom
	Lincoln Park	Mayor Frank Vaslo
	Melvindale	Mayor Valerie Cadez
	River Rouge	
	Riverview	Mayor Tim Durand
	Rockwood	Police Chief Stephen Rowe
	Romulus	
	Southgate	Mayor Joseph Kuspa
	Taylor	Mayor Jeffrey Lamarand
	Trenton	Councilman Terry Teifer
	Woodhaven	Mayor Pro-tem Jeffrey Harris
	Wyandotte	Mayor Joseph Peterson

The meeting was opened by the Chair Terry Teifer, at 5:59 p.m. with community roll call and introductions, and a welcome to the new Rockwood Alternate, Police Chief Stephen Rowe.

Agenda: Motion by Alternate Mahar, supported by Mayor Peterson, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Secretary Frank Vaslo reported. Motion by Mayor Dropiewski, supported by Mayor Lamarand, to accept the minutes of 11/4/10 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation:

Downriver Film Initiative: Jim Perry updated the board about the Committee they requested to be formed to review possibilities related to the film industry. He said the committee has met a couple of times, and recommends raising funds to market the project. Jim introduced Mike Donofrio of Allen Park and Chair of the Downriver Film Initiative Committee. Mike gave an overview of the Committee's efforts to date and their mission, and distributed information for the board to review (Overview, Committee's Scope and Outline of program steps and timelines). Mike explained details of the Committee's focus, guidelines, including ideas for soliciting sponsors, involving the Chamber, putting together a gallery of photos for each community, and special link on DCC's website. He said film scouts look for specific sites and want everything streamlined for quick turn-around time for filming purposes. He said timing is essential, since most filming is seasonal, running April to October. The Committee expressed interest in hiring a consultant for six months to assist with developing this project, and we would need to get some type of financial commitment from the communities to move forward, along with soliciting companies for donations. Jim Perry added that we have companies we can send sponsorship request letters to, to assist in this effort. Discussion followed of potential companies who would benefit from filming in this area. Mike introduced Ken Droz, Film Consultant (formerly with the Michigan Film Office). Ken Droz distributed a "Program for Marketing to Hollywood" which provided an overview of getting involved in the filming industry.

Downriver Film Initiative (continued):

Discussion followed that most of the communities do not have any revenue for this type of effort; concerns regarding the State continuing the current tax credit incentive; concerns on duplicating efforts with Wayne County - that they are already funneling film efforts to Downriver; not clear of justification for paying \$1,200 - \$1,500 per community (for initial seed money); and need to review the proposed budget. E-mail will be sent to each community with the Proposed Film Budget for a six-month period. Mike Donofrio emphasized the window of opportunity to act on this, in order to get this off the ground for the upcoming filming season. Terry Teifer asked if the permit fees could include a certain amount of money to pay into a marketing fund to help us market further, without asking for money from the communities. Board members agreed to go back to their councils to seek input/commitment for this effort.

Nominating Committee Report/Election of Officers:

Mayor Tim Durand, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that at the November meeting, the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers to serve during the 2011 calendar year:

Chair	Mayor Valerie Cadez, Melvindale
Vice Chair	Mayor Joseph Peterson, Wyandotte
Treasurer	Mayor Jack O'Reilly, Dearborn
Secretary	Economic Development Director Tim Keyes, Romulus

(**Note:** Councilman Terry Teifer of Trenton will become Past Chair and Mayor Tim Durand of Riverview will become Previous Past Chair, both of whom will continue as Board Officers, pursuant to the By-Laws.)

The Chair asked three times if there were any further nominations from the floor. There being none, motion by Mayor Vaslo, supported by Alternate Mahar, to close the nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mayor Dropiewski, supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Harris, to elect the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Perry thanked Councilman Terry Teifer for serving as Chair, and Mayor Frank Vaslo for serving as Secretary. Chair-Elect Mayor Valerie Cadez thanked Terry Teifer for his service as Chair as well.

2011 Board Meeting Dates: List was included in the board packet for information.

With there being no new business, motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Mayor Peterson, to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.